

Advanced Women's Care

Obstetrics, Gynecology & Infertility

Fellows
American College of Obstetrics & Gynecology

Diplomates
American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology

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March 16, 2003

**Dr. Mark McLellan
Commissoner for the FDA
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20857**

RE: Strong Objection to over-the-counter availability of emergency contraception

Dear Dr. McLellan:

As a practicing Obstetrician-Gynecologist I would like to register strong objection to allow emergency contraception to be available over-the-counter. Sexually transmitted diseases are at an all time epidemic high. Allowing over-the-counter emergency contraception will allow patients to bypass health provider screenings. This means that many sexually transmitted diseases that are diagnosed at healthcare provider screenings would then go undetected if the patient could purchase emergency contraceptives over-the-counter.

If anything, we should be promoting more screening and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases since they are at epidemic levels. This would establish bad policy because it would allow contraception without screening for STD's and other gynecologic disease processes.

I also feel that many patients especially teenagers will not use the contraceptive correctly. This may result in significant disruptions of menstrual function that will lead to possible false assurances that pregnancy has not occurred.

I strongly urge the FDA to not allow emergency contraception to be available over-the-counter without a prescription. For this and many other reasons as a practicing

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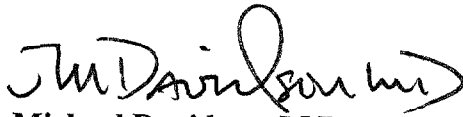
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emergency contraception**

physician I believe that it would be bad health policy and potentially harmful to patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Michael Davidson".

J. Michael Davidson, M.D.

JMD/ps

**C: Dockets Management Branch HFA-305
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852**

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